



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS OF STUDY AREA BOUNDARIES

WC Docket No. 10-90  
WC Docket No. 05-337

On November 6, 2012, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) released a *Report and Order* that established requirements for the collection of study area boundary data from incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) or state entities on their behalf.<sup>1</sup> On February 26, 2013, the Bureau released a subsequent *Order on Reconsideration* that adopted certain modifications and clarifications to the requirements for that data collection.<sup>2</sup> As set forth in the orders, each ILEC must submit data on the boundary(ies) of the area(s) it serves in a state (study area boundary), unless a state commission voluntarily submits these data for the ILECs in its state.<sup>3</sup>

### Deadlines for Submissions by State Commissions

We encourage state commissions to submit data on the study area boundaries of the ILECs operating in their respective states. State commissions planning to submit study area boundary data should file a notice of their intent to do so no later than **April 12, 2013**. The notification should be filed in WC Docket No. 10-90 using the Federal Communications Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS),<sup>4</sup> and a copy of the notification should be emailed to [StudyAreaBoundaries@fcc.gov](mailto:StudyAreaBoundaries@fcc.gov). The notification should include the contact information for the individual who will be primarily responsible for submitting the data and who should therefore receive the login information. The notification should also indicate which ILECs and their respective study area codes the state commission plans to include in its submission. Once the Bureau receives such a notice, it will provide the state commission with a password to use when logging into the study area boundary data collection web interface described below. The Bureau will also publish a list of the states and study area codes for which state commissions plan to submit boundary data.

State commissions filing study area boundary data can begin submitting data at <https://sab.fcc.gov/state/login/> on **April 29, 2013**, and are required to submit and certify the data no later than **June 28, 2013**. As stated in the *Reconsideration Order*, we expect that the boundary data submitted

<sup>1</sup> *Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, Report and Order, 27 FCC Rcd 13528 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012) (*Order*). The *Order* was published in the *Federal Register* on January 28, 2013, with an effective date for the rules of February 27, 2013. See 78 FR 5750.

<sup>2</sup> *Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, Order on Reconsideration, DA 13-282 (Wireline Comp. Bur. rel. Feb. 26, 2013) (*Reconsideration Order*).

<sup>3</sup> See *Reconsideration Order*, DA 13-282, at para. 6.

<sup>4</sup> ECFS is available at <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.

<http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/study-area-boundary-data-collection> detailed, step-by-step instructions for filers on how to upload data to these sites.

After logging into the site, ILECs or state commissions will enter basic contact information on a cover page and will then be able to submit data by uploading zipped shapefiles to the site. Shortly after uploading data to the site, filers will be able to view the submitted data in an embedded map on the interface. Once submission of the data is completed, filers will be able to certify, using the website, that the boundaries are accurate to the best of their knowledge, information, and belief.<sup>9</sup> An official of the ILEC or state commission can certify by providing his/her name, title, contact information, and electronic signature on the site. If filers discover errors or inaccuracies after viewing the submitted map data, they can resubmit updated data to the website before certifying. Filers can also contact Commission staff at [StudyAreaBoundaries@fcc.gov](mailto:StudyAreaBoundaries@fcc.gov) with any questions.

### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), in December 2012, the Bureau requested emergency approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the information collection requirements associated with the *Order*. OMB approved the Bureau's request on January 23, 2013, and a notice of that approval was published in the Federal Register on February 13, 2013.<sup>10</sup> The emergency PRA preapproval is in effect until July 31, 2013. The Bureau will submit shortly its regular PRA request to extend its approval of the study area boundary data collection for three years. This regular PRA submission will incorporate the modifications and clarifications adopted in the *Reconsideration Order* and will include comment periods.

### **Additional Information**

Additional information on the study area boundary data collection, including the orders referenced in this Public Notice, can be found on the Commission's study area boundary webpage at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/study-area-boundary-data-collection>. Specific questions about the requirements may be sent to [StudyAreaBoundaries@fcc.gov](mailto:StudyAreaBoundaries@fcc.gov). You can also contact the study area boundary staff at the Industry Analysis and Technology Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC by calling (202) 418-0940, (202) 418-0484 (tty). For additional information about this Public Notice, please contact Chelsea Fallon at (202) 418-7991 or [Chelsea.Fallon@fcc.gov](mailto:Chelsea.Fallon@fcc.gov); Suzanne Mendez at (202) 418-0941 or [Suzanne.Mendez@fcc.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Mendez@fcc.gov); or John Emmett at (202) 418-0386 or [John.Emmett@fcc.gov](mailto:John.Emmett@fcc.gov).

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<sup>9</sup> See *Reconsideration Order*, DA 13-282, at para. 15 ("certifications should be based on the information before the official making the certification and on a reasonable, good faith effort to confirm the accuracy of the submitted boundaries").

<sup>10</sup> 78 FR 10100.